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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0350  
INFO RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 7087  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 3931  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3221  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 8848  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1832  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3671  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1280  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J3/J332/J52//  
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UNCLAS COLOMBO 000775

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS AND PRM  
STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID  
AID/W FOR ANE/SCA  
AID/W FOR DCHA/FFP FOR JDWORKEN, JBORNS  
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA FOR ACONVERY, RTHAYER AND RKERR  
BANGKOK FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA WBERGER  
KATHMANDU FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA MROGERS AND POL SBERRY  
USMISSION GENEVA FOR NKYLOH  
USUN FOR ECOSOC DMERCADO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [MOPS](#) [ASEC](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: Addendum on Food: Report Number One on Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) Benchmarks for Sri Lanka

REF: A) Colombo 753 B) State 69689 C) Colombo 691

**¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY:** This is an addendum to the July Interagency Policy Committee Benchmarks Report for Sri Lanka, adding information about humanitarian food supplies to the IDP camps.

**¶2. (SBU) Benchmark:** Acute humanitarian needs are met with dignity. Key areas are food, water/sanitation, health, shelter, and protection.

-Status on Food: With the recently announced second tranche of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food aid this year to Sri Lanka, USAID's contribution in support of IDPs in 2009 is now 38,550 metric tons of mixed commodities, valued at more than USD 29 million. These resources form part of the dry rations that IDPs receive in the temporary camps in the North. These rations are distributed by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), in consultation with government officials and through NGO implementing partners. To date, there have been few complaints about the timely availability of these dry rations - calculated, at international standards, to meet the minimum daily nutritional requirements of IDPs living in camps. WFP and its implementing partners have full access to all the IDP camps and are able to monitor the distribution and, to a lesser degree, the post-distribution use of food aid. The recent shift from communal to individual family cooking in many of the IDP camps, especially as the camps are decongested to smaller, more remote sites, has presented a number of logistics challenges in terms of transport and food storage. The primary concern, however, has been the depletion of INGO and NGO resources to provide complementary food, primarily condiments, fresh produce, and other sources of protein such as canned fish. Though not considered essential by international survival ration standards, complementary food has taken on political importance. The GSL is concerned that a shortage or the elimination of complementary food items from the daily diet will sow discontent among the IDP population. Since complementary food is not considered life-saving, and because of its cost, the donor community has almost uniformly refused to provide resources to purchase these items.

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